



# Frequently Asked Questions



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Topeka, Kansas 66612  
(785) 296-3536  
[www.srs.ks.gov/agency/css/Pages/ParentFeeHomePage.aspx](http://www.srs.ks.gov/agency/css/Pages/ParentFeeHomePage.aspx)

Revised February 2010

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS - PARENT FEE PROGRAM**

*Updated February 2010*

**Home and Community**

**Based Services (HCBS) Waiver**

**Programs Included Are:**



- Autism
- DD - Developmental Disability (includes Mental Retardation)
- PD - Physical Disability
- SED - Serious Emotional Disturbance
- TA - Technology Assistance
- TBI - Traumatic Brain Injury

### **❖ Why do parents have to pay fees for services for their children?**

The 2002 Kansas Legislature passed a proviso to establish a Parent Fee as part of the Omnibus Appropriation Bill. The concepts of fairness and shared responsibility underlie the parental fee legislation. The legislation applies to parents of children who were determined eligible for HCBS services without considering parental resources or income. Because all of the services SRS provides are important to the people it serves, the concept of shared responsibility is a fair principle. It is reasonable and responsible to expect families, who have the means, to share in the cost of services provided to their minor children.

### **❖ Does everyone have to pay a fee?**

No. Families at or below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level will not be assessed a fee.

### **❖ What happens to the fees that are collected?**

Fees collected are placed in a fee fund with State General Funds; those funds are used to provide the non-federal portion (the matching funds that the State is required to pay, amounting to a portion of each dollar spent for Medicaid-funded services) of the HCBS waiver payment.

### **❖ How long will SRS collect parent fees?**

SRS will collect parent fees as long as authorized to do so by the Legislature. The Kansas Legislature has continued to include the proceeds from the collection of parent fees in the SRS budget in subsequent years.

### **❖ My case manager told me about parent fees, but I haven't received anything yet. What do I need to do?**

Please contact the Parent Fee Program staff at (785) 296-3536 or by email at [ParentFee@srs.ks.gov](mailto:ParentFee@srs.ks.gov).

### **❖ How will I know what the fee will be?**

SRS will compute your fee from information you supply on an Information Disclosure Form (IDF). You may estimate your own fee with some basic income information and using the Parent Fee Schedule (also referred to as the “Sliding Fee Scale”) on this website.

You need from your Adjusted Gross Income and the Total Number of Exemptions Claimed (what SRS refers to as the “Family of #”) from your most recent Federal Income Tax Form, With this information, go to the Parent Fee Schedule on the website and find the column for your “Family of #”. Read down the column to find your AGI amount line (AGI must be at least the amount listed) and find the applicable Monthly Fee for that line.

For example, a Family of Three (three exemptions claimed on your Federal Income Tax Form) with an annual Adjusted Gross Income of \$50,250, the monthly fee would be \$20.

❖ **How long will the parent fee last?**

The fee will be collected until the child is no longer receiving HCBS services or reaches the age of 18.

❖ **What if I have had a family crisis and can’t afford to pay the fee?**

SRS may waive a portion of the fee or the entire fee for a period of time for families who have a demonstrable hardship or significantly changed circumstances. Examples of hardships include: homelessness; loss of income that drops the family income to less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level; high health care costs not covered by insurance; or costly damage to home or property not covered by insurance. Examples of a significant change in circumstance include: an increase in family size due to the birth of a child; loss of a job; or an income drop of 20% or more.

❖ **Will services be reduced to people if fees are not collected?**

If fees are not collected, there will be an impact on the overall SRS budget.

❖ **Will my child lose services if I don’t pay my fee?**

A child cannot be removed from the HCBS waiver if the parent fails to pay the fee, but SRS is authorized to pursue collections of unpaid balances until it is paid, including pursuing payment through legal action.

❖ **What if I don’t return the requested information regarding family size and income to SRS?**

A default fee of \$200 per month has been established for parents who do not return the requested information.

❖ **Will I have to pay more than one fee if I have more than one child on the waivers(s)?**

No, the Parent Fee is a family fee, regardless of the number of children in the family receiving services.

❖ **Why isn't the amount of the fee based on the amount of services a child receives?**

Consistent with other SRS programs where participants pay a fee, the amount of the fee is not tied to the amount of services the person receives. This is consistent with guidance SRS has been given by the federal government.

SRS will consider whether the total amount parent paid during the state fiscal year (July 1 – June 30) was in excess of the actual cost incurred in providing services during the fiscal year. If the total amount of fees paid by the parent exceeds the total cost of services (both HCBS Waiver services and services paid for by the Medical Card), then SRS/DBHS will return the excess amount within 30 days of its discovery or credit to the parent's account

❖ **Will I have to pay a fee if I am foster parent of a child receiving services through the waiver? What if I am an adoptive parent, or grandparent or other relative rearing the child?**

No. Foster parents, adoptive parents and grandparents or other relatives rearing a child receiving services through the identified waivers are not charged a fee. When you complete the Information Disclosure Form (IDF), please provide your relationship to the child receiving HCBS services.

❖ **How do I pay my fee?**

Parents are billed monthly around the fifteenth (15<sup>th</sup>) day of the month. Payments are due by the eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) day of the following month. Payments payable to "State of Kansas – SRS" are to be mailed with the bottom portion of the bill to SRS. At this time SRS cannot accept automatic monthly withdrawals or internet payments.

❖ **What circumstances will be considered hardships?**

Examples of hardships include, but are not limited to: homelessness; loss of income that drops the family income to less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level; high health care costs not covered by insurance; or costly damage to home or property not covered by insurance.

The purchase of a new home or a family member attending college are the more usual or typical situations that do not qualify as circumstances for hardship consideration.

There may be other situations considered for hardship circumstances. Requests should be submitted in writing, using a completed Request for Fee Variance (RFV) form (available on the website), for SRS to reconsider the parent fee based on hardship circumstances. Completed forms should be sent to:

SRS, Disability and Behavioral Health Services  
Management Operations – Parent Fee Program  
915 SW Harrison, DSOB 9<sup>th</sup> Floor West  
Topeka, KS 66612-1570

❖ **It would be difficult for me to pay the full fee this month. Can I pay a lesser amount?**

Please communicate your circumstances by submitting a Request for Fee Variance (RFV) form (available on the website) with updated information on income and family size to SRS for consideration.

❖ **Who will be reviewing the hardship requests?**

SRS/Disability and Behavioral Health Services staff will be reviewing hardship requests. Staff may include HCBS waiver program managers and Parent Fee Program administrative staff, or other SRS staff as appropriate.

❖ **I returned my Information Disclosure Form more than a month ago, but I haven't received anything telling me what my fee will be. What do I need to do?**

Please contact the Parent Fee Program staff at (785) 296-3536 or by email at [ParentFee@srs.ks.gov](mailto:ParentFee@srs.ks.gov).

❖ **I received my bill and the fee is greater than the Monthly Fee of \$174 per month on the Parent Fee Schedule. Why?**

The fee table goes up to \$174 fee for those at the 601% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Families with incomes above 601% are charged a fee set at 3% of the income for a Family Size of 2 at the corresponding FPL – federal poverty level percentage. It was the consensus from the stakeholder group that the fee schedule should be progressive; that no maximum fee be set; and, that no fee would exceed 3% of a family's income.

For example, calculations on incomes in excess of 601% are made as follows:

Family Size: 4

Family Adjusted Gross Income (AGI): \$225,000

\$225,000 for a family of 4 is 1021 above the poverty level of \$22,050

Multiply 1021% by the poverty level of \$14,570 for a Family of 2 (see above) = \$148,760

\$148,760 multiplied by 3% is \$4,462 divided by 12 months = \$372 (numbers rounded)

The monthly fee of \$372 for this Family of 4 results in fees of \$4,464 per year, which is 1.98% of the family's Adjusted Gross Income.

❖ **I was told that there are no fees for HCBS services and I shouldn't have to pay a fee.**

Children are determined eligible for HCBS waiver services without considering parental resources or income, unlike other Medicaid eligibility determinations. The concepts of fairness and shared responsibility underlie the parent fee legislative proviso.

❖ **I am a foster care parent for a child receiving HCBS waived services and a parent of a child who also receives HCBS waiver services. Will I have to pay a fee?**

You may have a fee for your child based upon your financial information. Foster parents of a child receiving services through the waiver, adoptive parents, and grandparents or other relatives rearing the child are not charged a parent fee.